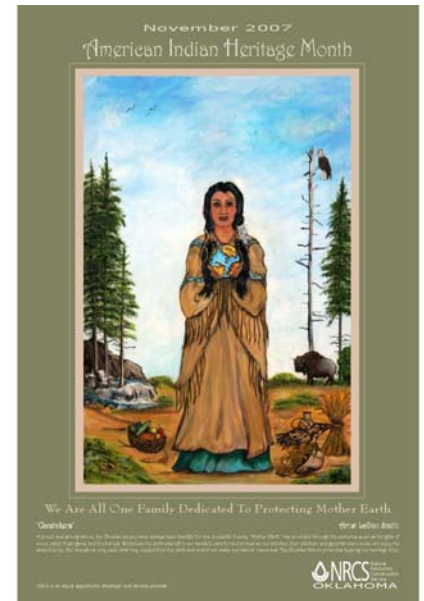


## American Indian Heritage Month 2007

In 1986, President Regan designated November 23-30 as “American Indian Week”. Four years later, President Bush proclaimed the first National American Indian Heritage Month. Each year since, U.S. Presidents have proclaimed November as “American Indian Heritage Month”.

NRCS celebrates American Indian Heritage Month in November. A poster is designed and distributed as part of the American Indian Heritage Month celebration. A painting by an American Indian Tribe artist is chosen each year to be featured on the poster



The 2007 poster is entitled, “We are All One Family Dedicated to Protecting Mother Earth.” The artist captures the image of a caretaker who represents American Indians and all populations as stewards of the land. The message is clear; we are all caretakers who are in charge of protecting and preserving the gifts of Mother Earth: water, air, wildlife, and land. The artist is LaDon Smith, a member of the Choctaw Nation, Boswell, Oklahoma.

LaDon stated “I am proud to be of Choctaw decent and happy to be a part of a poster contest that reflects a subject very important to me and has meaning to all of us. There must be a combined effort by all to help preserve and protect our natural resources for others who will follow us. I am concerned about pollution of our earth and water. There cannot be enough done to make others aware of this need.”